

## CLAIMS

### What is claimed is:

1. A vehicle seatback audio controller, comprising:  
5 an entertainment audio source;  
an entertainment interface coupled to the entertainment audio source;  
a telematics audio source;  
a telematics interface coupled to the telematics audio source, the telematics interface configured to receive a telematics audio signal; and  
10 a seatback interface coupled to the entertainment interface, the telematics interface, and a seatback speaker;  
where the seatback interface provides the telematics audio signal to the seatback speaker when the telematics audio source is active, and provides the entertainment audio signal to the seatback speaker when the telematics audio source is inactive.  
15
2. The vehicle seatback audio controller of claim 1, where the vehicle seatback audio controller determines whether the telematics audio source is active through a function the telematics audio signal.
- 20 3. The vehicle seatback audio controller of claim 1, further comprising a control interface coupled to the telematics audio source to receive a control signal, where the vehicle seatback audio controller determines whether the telematics audio source is active through the control signal.
- 25 4. The vehicle seatback audio controller of claim 1, further comprising a vehicle interface coupled to a vehicle speaker, where the vehicle interface provides the entertainment audio signal to the vehicle speaker.
- 30 5. The vehicle seatback audio controller of claim 1, where the telematics audio source is a radar warning system.

6. The vehicle seatback audio controller of claim 1, where the telematics audio source is a navigation system.

7. The vehicle seatback audio controller of claim 1, where the telematics audio source is mobile telephone.

8. The vehicle seatback audio controller of claim 1, where the entertainment audio source provides a digital audio signal.

9. The vehicle seatback audio controller of claim 1, where the entertainment audio source provides an analog audio signal.

10. The vehicle seatback audio controller of claim 1, comprising a microphone positioned in the vehicle generating a noise signal and a level detector coupled to the microphone receiving the noise signal, where the level detector determines an average gain signal as a function of the noise signal, and the seatback interface adjusts a level of the telematics audio signal to the seatback speaker as a function of the gain signal.

11. The vehicle seatback audio controller of claim 1, comprising an accelerometer coupled to the vehicle generating a vibration signal and a level detector coupled to the accelerometer receiving the vibration signal, where the level detector determines an average gain signal as a function of the vibration signal, and the seatback interface adjusts a level of the telematics audio signal to the seatback speaker as a function of the gain signal.

12. The vehicle seatback audio controller of claim 1, comprising a level detector coupled to the entertainment interface receiving the entertainment audio signal, where the level detector determines an average gain signal as a function of the entertainment audio signal, and the seatback interface adjusts a level of the telematics audio signal to the seatback speaker as a function of the gain signal.

13. A vehicle seatback audio controller, comprising:  
a first input adapted to receive an entertainment audio signal;  
a second input adapted to receive a telematics audio signal; and  
an output coupled to the first input and the second input;  
5 where the output is adapted to provide the telematics audio signal to a seatback speaker when the telematics audio signal is active, and to provide the entertainment audio signal to the seatback speaker when the telematics audio signal is inactive.

14. The vehicle seatback audio controller of claim 13, comprising a third input  
10 adapted to receive a control signal, where the vehicle seatback audio controller determines whether the telematics audio source is active through the control signal.

15. The vehicle seatback audio controller of claim 13, further comprising a second output adapted to provide the entertainment audio signal to a vehicle speaker.

16. The vehicle seatback audio controller of claim 13, where the entertainment audio signal is an analog audio signal.

17. The vehicle seatback audio controller of claim 13, where the entertainment audio  
20 signal is a digital audio signal.

18. The vehicle seatback audio controller of claim 13, where the telematics audio signal is an analog audio signal.

19. The vehicle seatback audio controller of claim 13, where the telematics audio  
25 signal is a digital audio signal.

20. The vehicle seatback audio controller of claim 13, comprising a microphone  
positioned in the vehicle generating a noise signal and a level detector coupled to the  
30 microphone receiving the noise signal, where the level detector determines an average gain signal as a function of the noise signal, and the output adjusts a level of the output

as a function of the gain signal.

21. The vehicle seatback audio controller of claim 13, comprising an accelerometer coupled to the vehicle generating a vibration signal and a level detector coupled to the accelerometer receiving the vibration signal, where the level detector determines an average gain signal through a vibration signal, and the output adjusts a level of the output as a function of the gain signal.

22. The vehicle seatback audio controller of claim 13, comprising a level detector coupled to the first input receiving the entertainment audio signal, where the level detector determines an average gain signal as a function of the entertainment audio signal, and the output adjusts a level of the output as a function of the gain signal.

23. A method of controlling seatback audio, comprising:  
receiving an entertainment audio signal from an entertainment audio source;  
receiving a telematics audio signal from a telematics audio source;  
providing the telematics audio signal to a seatback speaker when the telematics audio source is active; and  
providing the entertainment audio signal to the seatback speaker when the telematics audio source is inactive.

24. The method of claim 23, comprising providing the entertainment audio signal to a vehicle speaker.

25. The method of claim 23, comprising:  
receiving a vibration signal from a accelerometer positioned in a vehicle;  
determining an average gain signal as a function of the vibration signal; and  
adjusting a level of the telematics audio signal to the seatback speaker as a function of the gain signal.

26. The method of claim 23, comprising:  
receiving a vibration signal from a microphone positioned in a vehicle;  
determining an average gain signal as a function of the vibration signal; and  
adjusting a level of the telematics audio signal to the seatback speaker as a  
5 function of the gain signal.

27. A vehicle seatback audio controller, comprising:  
means for receiving an entertainment audio signal;  
means for receiving a telematics audio signal;  
10 means for transmitting the telematics audio signal to a seatback speaker when  
the telematics audio signal is active; and  
means for transmitting the entertainment audio signal to the seatback speaker  
when the telematics audio signal is inactive.

28. The vehicle seatback audio controller of claim 27, comprising a microphone  
15 positioned in the vehicle generating a noise signal and a level detector coupled to the  
microphone receiving the noise signal, where the level detector determines an average  
gain signal as a function of the noise signal, and the means for transmitting the  
telematics audio signal adjusts a level of the telematics audio signal to the seatback  
20 speaker as a function of the gain signal.

29. The vehicle seatback audio controller of claim 27, comprising an accelerometer  
coupled to the vehicle generating a vibration signal and a level detector coupled to the  
accelerometer receiving the vibration signal, where the level detector determines an  
25 average gain signal as a function of the vibration signal, and the means for transmitting  
the telematics audio signal adjusts a level of the telematics audio signal to the seatback  
speaker as a function of the gain signal.

30. The vehicle seatback audio controller of claim 27, comprising a level detector  
30 coupled to the means for receiving an entertainment audio signal receiving the  
entertainment audio signal, where the level detector determines an average gain signal

“Express Mail” Mailing No: EV 227676957 US

PATENT

Date of Deposit: July 31, 2002

Case No. 11336/537 (P03005US1)

as a function of the entertainment audio signal, and the means for transmitting the telematics audio signal adjusts a level of the telematics audio signal to the seatback speaker as a function of the gain signal.